

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SCCT-02 EB-11 FAA-00 ARA-16 SY-04 NEA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3742

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS THE HAGUE 2855

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, NL

SUBJ: VC-10 HIJACKERS SENTENCED

REF: THE HAGUE 2661

1. ON JUNE 6, TWO PALESTINIAN HIJACKERS WERE SENTENCED TO FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT BY COURT AT HAARLEM. SENTENCE WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH DEMAND OF PUBLIC PROSECUTOR. PRESIDING JUDGE AND THREE MAN PANEL CONVICTED ADNAN AHMAD NURI ON THREE COUNTS. HIS CO-DEFENDANT, SAMI HOESSEIN TANIMA, WAS CONVICTED ON TWO COUNTS, HIJACKING AND ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF ARMS. HAARLEM COURT REJECTED DEFENSE COUNSEL'S PLEA THAT TANIMA SHOULD NOT BE PUNISHED SINCE HE WAS A SOLDIER OBEYING MILITARY ORDERS. IN STATEMENT ACCOMPANYING VERDICT COURT STRESSED SERIOUSNESS OF HIJACKING CHARGE, NOTING THAT ACTIONS OF DEFENDANTS HAD JEOPARDIZED LARGE NUMBER OF INNOCENT LIVES. COURT, HOWEVER, ALSO RECOGNIZED ULTIMATE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIJACKING WAS IN LARGE MEASURE IN HANDS OTHER THAN THOSE OF HIJACKERS. COUNSEL FOR HIJACKERS HAS TWO WEEKS TO APPEAL FIVE YEAR PRISON SENTENCE.

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2. LIGHT SENTENCE HAS ALREADY BEEN CRITICIZED BY
BRITISH AIRLINES PILOTS ASSOCIATION. DUTCH PRESS
REPORTS BALPA SPOKESMAN GORDON HURLEY COMMENTED:
"WE DO NOT BELIEVE HIJACKING WILL STOP UNTIL DEATH
SENTENCE IS RE-INTRODUCED". HURLEY REPORTEDLY SAID
DUTCH HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT LACK OF INJURED AND NO
LOSS OF LIFE BUT ARGUED HIJACKING ATTEMPT RISKS SO
MANY LIVES THAT HIJACKERS FORFEIT RIGHT TO BE TREATED
HUMANELY.

3. JUSTICE MINISTER VAN AGT, WHO TOLD PRESS LAST WEEK
THAT HE THOUGH PUBLIC PROSECUTORS'S REQUEST FOR FIVE
YEAR SENTENCE WAS "SENSIBLE" (VAN AGT HAS BEEN
CRITICIZED IN PRESS FOR COMMENTING ON MATTER SUB JUDICE),
HAD ALREADY NOTED THAT TWO HIJACKERS COULD SERVE THEIR
TERM IN ANOTHER COUNTRY UNDER INTERNATIONAL TREATY
ARRANGEMENTS.
GOULD

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Message Attributes

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